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Andrew Jackson Edmondson War of 1812 journal

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A Journal of the Campaign of a detachment of Volunteers to the lower Mississippi under General Jackson in 1812 & 13.

We were mustered into Service at Nashville on the 10th Decr 1812 or rendezvoused then for Service were mustered into service a few days after and encamped below Nashville on the plantation of David McGavock & called it Camp extortion & continued there until the end of the month while there we yoematry for the first term were called on to do camp duty & the Commissioned & noncommissioned officers belonging to the three Regiments were called together to hear a Genl order in relation to our duty as Sentinels previous to our being ordered in that duty there were two Regiments of Infantry & one of Cavalry the Cavalry commanded by Col. John Coffee the first regiment of infantry commanded by Col. William Hall the Second by Col. Thomas H. Benton to whose Regiment I belonged & the company command by Capt. Thos. Williamson 1st Lieut Joseph N. Williamson 2nd Lieut Lewis Dillahunty & myself Ensign. the first night we were placed on Guard Col. Thomas H. Benton was officer of the day & it was presumed from the drilling we had received in the day as to our duty there would be no difficulty in attending to it we were placed in a square each regiment occupying one side the life Guard & field officers occupying the other after Tattoo the officer of the day started on his rounds he commenced with the Cavalry officers first as that Regiment was considered as occupying the right Ours was on the left & he took the Gun of every centinyl until he came to me I was the first one on our square as he approached with his rounds I hailed and asked who comes there answered Rounds What Rounds Grand Rounds Stand Grand Rounds Advance Sergeant with the Countersign Countersign right pass grand rounds as they passed in front the Sentinel presents arms as I had some little pride in my ability to go through the Manual exercise well when the Col stopped in front of me he praised my performance & asked me to repeat the Manover which I did I had borrowed a rifle when I went on guard and very foolishly had loaded it the Col asked me if I understood Buonaparts manner of coming to a present which he said he prefered to any I told him I did not he proposed to show me being at a present I lowered the mussle of my gun to let him take it, but at that moment it

flashed across my mind I had heard my father say a sentinel was never to let any one come in reach of his arms and although I had entirely forgot our Genl orders the recollection of the fireside chats I had so often heard from my father and his old associates prevented me from the disgrace of a reprimand for the loss of my arms hence I have always been a great stickler for those kind of chats as I think if anything can keep a love of country uppermost in our minds it is what we are taught by our parents in recounting their trials in old times but for my recollection of this my gun would have been gone I was so excited I talked so loud that it put the sentinel next me on his guard & he got no gun on our line when I told him not to touch my arms I was so excited & trembled so I came near shouting him Why says he if you dont let me have your gun how can I show you the French mode I told him I could not help it he must not touch it Why says he dont you know me Yes but you must not touch my gun with that he left me & went to try the rest & I failed to learn the French mode the last of the month we left our camp & went down near McGavocks ferry that is the two Regts of Infantry the Cavalry went some few miles south of Town & formed an encampment which was called Good exchange & where they staid until they took up their march for the lower Mississippi we remained at necessity until the 7th Jan^{y} when a portion of us marched down to Jonathan Robertsons & remained until the next evening when we went aboard of the boats and on the 9th we put off down the river had a cold snowy day encamped on the North side of Cumberland On the 10th we started on & landed at the mouth of Harpeth where we are to wait for the Genl & balance of the detachment On the 11th still at the mouth of Harpeth two men went out hunting today killed two tame deer belonging to an old Gentleman named Davidell they were forced to pay for the deer On the 12th The Genl & balance of the infantry came up On the 13th we that were provided with boats (none but two companies of the 2nd Regt were provided the others had to wait until the boats were built up the Harpeth could be brought down) started down the river once more floated all day and encamped on the South side of the river On the 14th made an early start and about 10 Oclock landed at Clarksville staid all day receiving Pork & flour to do us to Natchez On the 15th made an early start had a

fine day made a good days sail encamped on the south side of the river On the 16th made another early start floated all day at sundown landed to get wood supplied ourselves for the night slipped cable and floated all night crossed the Tennessee line On the 17th about 8 oclock the morning there was a boat stove belonging to the quarter master nothing lost but the boat this was Sunday about two o clock our Chaplain Parson Blackman came on board our boat to preach the top gave way & let the whole of us down into the boat he finished preaching on board Capt Renshaws boat which was lashed to ours none of us was hurt stopped at Eddyville to get plank to repair our boat tis a small place on the North side of Cumberland floated all night a fine day On the 18th a fine morning floated until about 2 oclock P.M. came to Eddy water backed up from the Ohio 10 oclock P.M. land about one mile from the mouth of Cumberland on the North side of the river On the 19th started on but were stopped at the mouth of the river on account of the ice in the Ohio landed at Smithland a poor apology for a town paraded in the Snow & if ever Borias was in earnest it was now in the evening went down to the point to look at the Ohio the ice in full bloom the sun just setting it looked beautiful On the 20th moved up the river about a mile landed on the North side for convenience of getting wood had three men tried for desertion belonged to Capt Nashs Company from Rutherford named two Butler and Snowden Sentenced to draw half rations for five days have half month's (wages) docked wear the chain & ball for three days and drummed along the line for three days about Sundown were brought along the line at quick step On the 21st Still continued here had hard drilling all day about Sundown the deserters were brought along again when they were halted & accosted by the Genl as follows

> I am surprised to see here men and likely men who turned out Voluntarily in defence of their injured Country after having endured all the cold weather with cheerfulness and patience now tarnish their honor by deserting their posts

On the 22nd we still continued at our old encampment had another days drilling & a fine day in the evening the deserters were brought along the line once more and dismissed from any further punishment On the 23rd we started from the mouth of Cumberland in the ice about noon John Rogers a private in our Company died his

Complaint heart pleurisy he was speechless three days before his death here follows Capt Williamsons letter on the occasion to Genl Jackson & his answer

Dear Genl
It is with the utmost regret I announce to you the death of John Rogers a private in my Company he Struggled with death and departed this life at 57 minutes past twelve o'clock this day I am Sir with great consideration
Your most obt humble servt
Thos Williamson
Capt 2 Regt Ten V Infty

On board the fair Mary
Jany 23 1813

Capt Thos Williamson Sir
I have this moment recd your note giving the melancholy information that John Rogers a private in your company is no more Being so near Massac he must be interred there of which due notice will be given a coffin of some kind must be provided and we must perform the last sad duties to the body of this unfortunate man in the most respectful manner our situation will allow It will be well to have himdressed and laid out in the neatest clothing he has if he has none clean have some washed as we proceed along and during the night we will endeavor if we reach Massac to have a coffin prepared I am with due respect your fr
Andrew Jackson Majr Genl

Headquarters
Board fair Phereby

About 2 o clock we passed the mouth of Tennessee twelve miles from the mouth of Cumberland The ice very bad in the Ohio had a cloudy dull day late in the evening we landed opposite Massac we could not land there for the ice On the 24th we stayed to bury Rogers at Massac had a rainy day and night On the 25th started once more and proceeded on down about 2 o clock there came up a very severe storm came near being cast away the boat rocked so that the patroon could hardly stand to steer landed on the west side of the river On the 26th proceeded on very early had a clear cold day Two of our men went ashore for a canoe that had got away from us & floated ashore they could not overtake us with the Canoes so they committed them to the river and tried it on foot in the Snow and ice all day they came near being lost with the cold we landed tonight on Cash Island about nine miles from the mouth of the Ohio & the men in about half an hour killed 8 deer On the 27th started once more before light passed the mouth of Cash(?) before daylight and landed at the mouth of the Ohio a man went hunting today he has not returned tonight On the 28th still continued at the mouth of the Ohio Lt Col Bradley took some men and

paraded on the beach Col Bradley found the man & returned On the 29th still continued at the mouth of the river parade on the beach the 2nd Regt not up yet the Mississippi rose ten feet in the last 24 hours & still continues to rise On the 30th we left the mouth of the river moved down the Mississippi about 12 o clock passed the Chalk Bank on the East side of the landin opposite the iron banks they are in Kentucky here we found the effects of the earthquake On the 31st more snow on top of the old saw some more signs of the earthquake landed on the east side of the river about three miles below New Madrid which is on the west side of the river a beautiful place but nearly deserted since the Shakes the Streets cut in trenches so that they are nearly impassable landed on the opposite side of the river from the town.

Feby 1sy started early passed about noon the Little prairie the ground is torn by Earthquake very much & the river now runs where the Town once stood Bayou Pamisco which made out here is now dry there were several islands above where we landed tonight on the east side of the river On the 2nd started early came on very well all day landed at night at the upper Chickasaw Bluffs had a fine day On the 3rd started early passed the middle Chickasaw Bluffs about noon then went through the devil's racetrack or path and landed on the East side of an island a fine day On the 4th started early & landed on the East side of the river above Fort Pickering a fine day On the 5th made another early start passed the mouth of Wolf just below it Fort Pickering it looks more like a nigro quarter than a place for defence resembling the fortresses of the Hon Timothy himself on the decline in character another fine day landed on the East side of the river above the grand cutoff On the 6th an early start passed the cutoff 2 miles in 10 minutes passed the mouth of the St.Francis & Fort Pike built by & called for Capt now Col Pike landed on the west side below the big Prairie a beautiful place another fine day On the 7th started early passed prairies on both sides had a fine day landed on the west side for the night On the 8th started early passed Grand Lake on the east side of the river passed the mouth of White river a fine day passed prairies landed opposite the mouth of Arkansas it formerly divided Upper

& Lower Louisiana On the 9th Started before day had a fine day landed on the west side opposite a big Island On the 10th started early had to haul to about 2 o clock P.M. on the East Side here the 2nd Regt under Col Benton overtook us On the 11th made and early start about 10 oclock came to 20 mile reach passed Stack Island then the crows nest had a cloudy dark day landed on the East side of the river On the 12th Started early but had to stop on acct of the wind landed on the west side On the 13th we staid all day the men washing up a very windy day On the 14th Started before day passed the mouth of the Yazoo river 8 miles above the walnut hills plenty of long mass had a cloudy day landed on the east side of the river here I had a spell of Cholic Serjeant Gooch recommended black pepper burnt me up nearly On the 15th Started early passed Grand Gulf before day passed the mouth of Bayou Pierre passed Petty Gulph and the plantation of the late Abijah Hunt who was killed in a duel by George Poindexter landed about 3 miles above Natchez on the East side had a fine day On the 16th about 12 oclock we moved down to the town put out our guard & had a patrol detailed Col Benton issued the following order after the 2nd Regt overtook us -

Regimental order

The rules and articles of war for the Government of the Armies of the United States are fraught with Salutory provisions and those which are intended to preserve the morals of Armies are not the least considerable among the practices herein forbidden and made punishable by those articles is the unchristian and ungentlemanly Vice of profane Swearing This vice though practiced by many without any evil intentions is yet practiced in contempt of all laws divine civil & Military and in Violation of the rules of decency and decorum that this vice which is degrading & so little beneficial to those who practice it should be suppressed particularly in the 2nd Regt Tennessee Volunteer Infantry is the earnest wish of the Commandant of that Regiment He therefore recommends & requests that all officers noncommissioned and privates of the 2nd Regt henceforth desist from the use of profane oaths & it is particularly expected that officers of every grade will aid and assist in carrying this wish into effect particularly by their example much has already been said in praise of the Tennessee Volunteers the Commandant of the 2nd Regt hopes that still more yet will be said to their honor and that their well earned reputation will not be stained by the fashionable vices of the users

Thos H Benton Col 2 Regt T.V.I.

The following is the Genl order issued previous to the disembarkation of the troops

Genl Orders Headquarters near Natchez
Feby 16th 1813

The General has to announce to the Infantry under his command that a disembarkation of the troops will take place at Natchez so soon as the Waggons can be procured for the transportation of the baggage to the cantonment as soon as disembarked we are to pass through a polished part of our citizens good order silence and polite language towards all the citizens as well as to each other are to be religiously observed by all the detachment under pain of immediate punishment for disobedience of this order The eyes of the American Nation are upon us we are the forlorn hope of the militia of the Union On us depends the restoration of the hard work and safe defences of a free people a well organized Militia It behoves every officer & soldier belonging to my detachment by his soldier like conduct by his urbanity & polite attention to the good citizens of the Country in order to show them that we are the protectors of their individual rights as well as against foreign enemies or domestic factions The Major Genl therefore hopes that every officer and Soldier he has the honor to command will behave himself in every respect as a gentleman and realize the wishes of their Genl & their country the Quarter Masters of the 1st & 2nd Regt will proceed immediately to Natchez & proceed without delay in conjunction with the deputy Quarter Masters agent to procure a sufficient number of waggons to transport our baggage to the cantonment the detachment will immediately proceed and land opposite Natchez where they will disembark

By order of the Major Genl
Andrew Hines aid de camp

On the 17th we disembarked passed through Natchez to Fort Dearbourn had a muddy wet day On the 18th we still were encamped near the old fort another cloudy day On the 19th still continued here four officers arrested by the patrol at a Brothel On the 20th still continued here at the old fort hard drilling rainy morning & cloudy day On the 21st still at the old place rained all night sleet in the morning the coldest weather they have seen here for some time On the 22nd the birthday of Washington a clear pretty morning nature seemed to smile on the scene we moved to Camp Jackson about two miles from the old Fort a beautiful place On the 23rd a fine day nothing to do but fix our encampment

Genl Orders Headquarters Camp Jackson
24th February 1813

To insure good order in the Camp the Genl orders that the following rules be observed for the policy of the Camp until otherwise ordered

1st The Adjutants are to attend at the Brigade inspection Quarters at 10 oclock in the morning to receive orders & make their morning reports

2nd The Orderly Serjeants are to attend at the adjutants Quarters at eight oclock to make their reports & half-past ten to receive their orders

3rd The Reveille is to be at every morning at daybreak when every officer & soldier is to rise parade & stand to his arms until the roll is called

4th The retreat is to be beat at Sundown when the roll is to be called and absentees reported whether officers or soldiers

5th The Tattoo is to be beat at 8'oclock P.M. The Serjeant & Corporals to visit their respective squads & report the state thereof

6th Every Saturday each Capt will inspect his Company see that all public property committed to his care can be accounted for if a Soldier loses any part of his equipment he will immediately charge him therewith reporting the same to his commanding officers

7th All guards will parade at 10 oclock in the morning and relieve every 24 hours the officers & citizens to pass the lines through the day without molestation as well as all waggons engaged in the public service

8th The officers of the day will go the rounds at least twice each night

9th The rules & articles of war forbid any officer or private from leaving his post while on guard if a commissioned officer upon pain of being cashiered if a noncommissioned officer or private of suffering agreable to the sentence of a court martial

By order of the Genl
Andrew Hines aid de camp

On the 24th nothing of consequence occurred we had a fine clear day & a little drilling by companies On the 25th the 2nd Regt had a parade a fine day On the 26th paraded this morning at Reveille the officers were called to the Genls quarters to drill after drilling one hour it was moved by Majr Carroll that the officers should parade there every morning after calling the roll at Reveille with his musket to drill one hour agreed to unanimously

Regimental Orders

At nine oclock in the morning at a Signal given from the Cols Tent the whole of the companies will turn out to their own music & form dressing with the Stakes as nearly as may be before their tents an interval of at least 16 Feet between them each Capt will exercise his men without paying any regard to what another is doing & continue so for an hour at least always dressing by the Stakes which are to serve as Guides the same exercise will be repeated at three oclock

in the evening and this will be the daily exercise while the troops remain at their present encampment the Signal will be the displaying the Regimental colors from the Colonels tent

By order of the Col

Feb^{y} 26th 1813 Guy Smith adjt 2 Regt T.V. Infty.

we had a clear day On the 27 & 28 nothing of importance occurred we received our blank inspection rolls and orders to prepare for inspection fine days March 1st we paraded agrement at the Genls quarters where we got orders from the Genl to have our Companies clean shaved & dressed & ready for parade by nine oclock on the morrow with their heads powdered a fine day On the 2nd nothing of importance transpired we were ready for inspection but the U.S. inspector did not come so we performed some evolutions that surprised the Spectators a fine day On the 3rd we were inspected by Capt. Holmes the U.S. Inspector a fine day after inspection we were formed into close column Majr Carroll read the Sentence of the Court Martial on Capt Hewett who was tried for intemperance & Cashiered then his first Lieut Gambrill he was brought forward under guard he was to be kept from his command for six days & reprimanded by his Col his crime was going to a brothel Col Benton addressed him as follows

I am sorry to have to address an officer belonging to my regiment on such an occasion as this for an officer to go contrary to orders and besides as you have done to go to such a place as under the Hill as it is called the place where Hell reigns on earth where the refuse of creation assembles this sir is a thing that pains me to think about & which I never want to talk in public on again

On the 4th & 5th nothing of importance turned up we had our two parades & fine days On the 6th & 7 still times no camp news afloat fine clear weather On the 8th a sermon from Parson Blackman after the Sermon he addressed us on the Subject of a Bible Society being established in west Tennessee but soldiers here not the people to give much encouragement to such an institution On the 9th nothing out of the common course of things turned up we had our parades and fine weather On the 10th & 11th Good weather as usual & still times

Genl Orders

Method of receiving the grand rounds the officer of the day will visit the several guards during the day as often and at such hours as he judges proper when the sentinel before the

guard firs_ discovers the officer of the day he will call the guard to turn out and the guard being paraded on the approach of the officer of the day presents arms by the command of their officer the officer of the day may then have the roll called and make such examination as he thinks proper not only the officer of the day but the Genl is also at liberty to visit the guards and make the same examination during the night the officer of the day will go the rounds when the officer of the day arrives at the guard from whence he intends to begin the rounds he will make himself known by giving the countersign to the officer of the guard he will then order the guard under arms and examine it as he may think proper he will then demand an escort of a Serjeant & 2 men - & proceed to the next post where the rounds are challenged by a sentinel the Serjeant answering Grand rounds the sentinel will reply Stand grand rounds advance Serjt with the countersign upon which the Serjeant will advance & give the Countersign the centinel will reply advance grand rounds allow them to pass presenting his arms but not suffer anyone to approach in reach of them when the sentinel before the guard challenges the rounds & is answered grand rounds he will reply Stand grand Rounds turn out the guard guard upon the Sentinels calling the guard is to be turned out and drawn up in good order with Shouldered arms the officers taking their posts the officer commanding the guard will order a Serjeant and two men to advance towards the rounds and challenge when the Serjeant of the guard comes within 10 paces of the rounds he will halt & challenge briskly the Serjeant of the rounds will answer grand rounds the Serjeant of the guard rounds advance Serjt with the Countersign & order his men to present arms the Serjeant of the rounds will advance alone and giving the countersign returns to his rounds & the Serjeant of the guard calls to his officer the countersign is right on which the officer of the guard call advance grand rounds then advances alone and on his approach the guard presents their arms he will pass along the front of the guard to the officer who keeps his post on the right he will then examine the guard order back his escort & demand a new one & proceed in the same manner to the other guards The foregoing regulations will be copied into the orderly book of each Capt belonging to the detachment & read at his morning and evening parades for two weeks

By order of the Majr Genl

Head Quarters
Camp Jackson
March 11th 1813

Andrew Hines aid

On the 12th & 13 nothing of consequence occurred except a very hard rain which made our tents leak very much On the 14th the Genl Recd orders to disband his army & return home he refused to do it until his return to Nashville he set the 18th day to start on his return march a hard rainy day On the 15th we buried a man belonging to Capt Renshaws Co 2 Regt the 4th man that has died in the detachment since we left home had a wet day On the 16th about 10 oclock we were paraded & heard the following Genl Order

Fellow Soldiers

Long since the clouds of war hovered around our beloved Country its constituted authorities announced it in danger and invited you to rally round the government of your choice for its support & defence It was enough for such patriots as you descended from the heroes of the revolution to know that the patrimony procured by the best blood of your fathers was endangered you the support of your Country Voluntarily enlisted your selves in its defence & tendered your services to the President which were with expressions of gratitude accepted of Your tender was on the broad basis of your countrys will not confined within Constitutional limits By the orders of Government war was declared you Stood panting for the call of your government with your eyes turned to the North the seat of war ready to mingle your strength with that of your distressed brethren in arms Your Representative in Congress made known your patriotism to the government addressed you as part of his constituents with the eloquence of a Cicero (this your patriotism did not require) urged you en masse to enroll yourselves under the act of Congress in support of a just necessary & proper war he pledged himself for your patriotism enrolled you have been & only wanted the call of your government an army was hastily surrendered a territory lost men were wanting Still you were not called to the field at length it was said that the inhospitable clime of the lower Mississippi was endangered by threatened invasion the Government called you heard there was no clime could damp your ardor the 10th December 1812 with pleasure will be recollected by every patriotic bosom you with the Spirits of fre_ man whose rights were invaded bore without a murmur the Snowy blasts you entered the camp with the order of good citizens you bore its privations like good soldiers the alacrity with which you entered on the duties of Soldiers foretold to your Genl that you would soon be prepared for the field his highest wishes were realized the wishes of your Genl and your Country your uniform good conduct your attention to the right of the Citizens through which you have passed has secured to you the plaudits of the citizens of the Country & entitled you to the thanks and esteem of your Genl he knows if you had met an enemy from your pride your patriotism & attention to discipline you would have gained Laurels for yourselves & honor to the Country from which you came you are now about to return to your country & it remains for to unfold whether you have been treated by the agents of government with that attention your patriotism entitles you to expect and whether you have not been shamefully forgotten by your representative in Congress Fellow Citizens in our march we have to pass through a Savage country their rights must be respected and notwithstanding your humanity is shocked at the unheard of cruelty & murder of our brethren still it becomes us until we are ordered and Commanded by Government to withhold our hands from vengeance least we might strike the innocent with the guilty and bring disgrace & guilt upon our heads it is therefore ordered & commanded that neither the persons or property be disturbed by any officer or Soldier under my command while returning through that Country it is necessary for the safety of the detachment that we march in good order & that the whole detachment remain together until we arrive at Nashville the order of march

will be daily communicated through the brigade Inspector all officers are forbidden to give any furlough or permits to the Soldiers to leave the encampment for a longer time than four hours & they must be accompanied by a Commissioned or noncommissioned officer who will be responsible for their return so soon as the necessary supplies are received from the Contractors & Quartermasters department the line of march will be taken up the Major Genl having pledged himself that he never would abandon one of his men & that he would act the part of a father to them has to repeat that he will not leave one of the Sick nor of the detachment behind he has led you here he will lead you back to your country & friends the sick as far as he has the power & the means shall be made comfortable if any one dies he will pay to them the last tribute of respect they shall be buried with all the honors of war Should your General die he knows it is a respect you will pay to him it is a debt due to every honest & brave soldier of the detachment The officer of the day will permit the guard to sleep at their fires during the night Keeping up one watch

Andrew Jackson
Majr Genl

Headquarters
Camp Jackson
16th March 1813

After the orders were read we were dismissed until in the evening when we had a Regimental parade but were driven in by the rain On the 17th Last night we had a hard rain insomuch that we could not sleep on account of the wet we had to wrap ourselves up in our blankets & Set up all night with our feet covered with water In the morning it was clear but about ten oclock it began to rain we had a wet day On the 18 Cloudy morning cleared off about 10 oclock A.M. fine day On the 19th last night about 12 Oclock Col Benton had been out patrolling & on his return when he came to the guard he fired off his gun the alarm was beat & in less than ten minutes both Regts were under arms the Genl did not like Col Bentons conduct and gave him a very sharp talk concerning it Majr Carroll mounted his horse without a saddle bare headed & rode out to see who had caused this flurry some of the men thought there was some cause for the alarm but as soon as rightly awake recollected where we were

today we had a regimental parade it was a very warm evening in the morning we put on our knapsacks & marched to try how they would do On the 20th marched once more with our knapsacks it is uncertain when we will start some think we will start Sunday which is tomorrow in deed the Genl says so but I dont think we will as we cant get waggons On the 21st This is the morning we allowed to start but have again failed dont know when we will get off a clear day On the 22nd nothing

particular happened another fine day On the 23rd Another balk about starting several waggons coming in looks a good like we will get off soon a good many Spectators to see us muster several Ladies among them all were astonished to see our performance as we beat any regular troops they have had among them On the 24th Called up & formed a solid column & heard a Genl order read we take up our march for home in the morning On the 25th about noon we started for home some dissatisfied at our having to go home without doing something for our Country besides eating her rations others glad to hear the news to return home came on & encamped at Sulsertown six miles from Washington Several of our men unwell one I dont think will recover a cloudy day On the 26th Started early passed Union Town six miles from Sulser Town camped near Greenville Six miles from Union Town today the waggon that carried our baggage broke down they had to get a new axle tree after we had encamped our waggon came up one of our men is so bad that they talk of leaving him in Greenville until he recovers if he has the good fortune to recover Serjt Gooch is to stay to nurse him several men giving out today it is so hot On the 27th started early left our sick man Hugh the Genl gave Gooch money to buy any little necessary he might want and ordered the man where he was left to supply him with any thing he might need & also supply him with money to take him and he would be accountable for it

we encamped twenty miles from Greenville a fine day On the 28th an early start about 8 oclock this morning we had a heavy rain for an hour very hard the mud up to our knees as we marched along some falling down the others laughing at them which would have caused any one to laugh heartily to look at us in the mud on the banks of a creek encamped at Bayou Pierre waded the Stream our Col at our head water waist deep On the 29th started early came on & encamped at the Choctaw line had a fine day & our road passed over high pine ridges On the 30th Started and came on and encamped on Lensioners Creek fine road & fine day some of our oxen gave out today on account of the heat in the barrens On the 31st Started early about noon passed Bakers Creek which took its name from a robbery on its bank Baker was on his way from Natchez where he had gone with produce for sale & was on his way home with the proceeds of his trip stopped his horse on the bank went down to the

water to get a drink when Mason the great robber rushed (out) of the thicket with his comrades & led off his horse with $2500 on his back & would not let poor Baker have enough to bear his expenses home to Tennessee but took his horse & money & left him to shift for himself fine day On the 1st April Started early came on and encamped at the Choctaw agency dismissed more teams today had a fine day the indians are encamped here to receive their annuities were going to have a big ball play our passing stopped them but there are a great many indians here we are one hundred & twenty miles from Natchez we have been eight days coming it On the 2nd Marched hard all day & encamped at Wards this place looks more like living than any place I have seen since we left the Grindstone ford on the big Bayou Pierre a fine day On the 3rd my birthday just 20 years old today started early came on three miles past McRamey we saw a great many indians going to the ball play they play for six thousand dollars passed Several Indian graves they have several poles four short ones & two long ones have steps made for the Indians to climb up to Heaven two were sitting by the grave crying & paid no attention to us no more than if we had not been there there were several more setting about that appeared no more concerned than if nothing was the matter a fine day On the 4th today we came (to where) the water runs east today yesterday it ran west the waters of the Mississippi today the waters of Pearl a fine day just beginning to come to the Swamps On the 5th started early came on some miles past Shoals got beeves from Shoat for today's rations On the 6th this morning came on to Lafleurs an old Frenchman with an Indian wife got some beeves from him came on and camped three miles from Lafleurs twenty miles from Pigeon roost a fine day On the 7th made an early start & about 10 oclock came to one of the Byr Wyr swamps there was one waggon mired down so we had to strip off & drag her out about 4 miles further came to the other Bye Wy got over without difficulty a fine day camped in 7 miles of the Pigeon roost On the 8th started & passed Pigeon Roost swamp the half way ground between Natchez & Nashville came on one mile across the line which is thirteen miles from the Pigeon roost to where we are encamped another fine day & fine road vegetation more backward here now than it was at Camp Jackson fifteen days ago On the

9th started early made a bad days travel on account of the swamps & creeks we had to cross & bridges we had to make a fine day encamped fourteen miles from the Chickasaw agency On the 10th made an early (start) came to the agents before we stopped for breakfast passed some old fields after breakfast we started and passed Jas. Colberts eight miles from the Agency had a heavy rain came one mile past Colberts made 23 miles today On the 11th started early & about 3 oclock came to the Chickasaw Old Town this has been a great Town in early times there has been about 1000 houses here there is once 5000 acres that have been cultivated by this people a great battle was fought here between the Chickasaws & Creeks we passed near the battle ground there is one family that lives here yet we came on & encamped having made 23 miles today On the 12th made an early start came on and took a swamp the first thing & hardly had any thing else all day about 10 oclock came to a swamp that took an hour to go 1/4 of a mile & was nearly waist deep all the way crossed twenty mile creek & encamped in three miles of Browns swamp having made 20 miles today fine day On the 13th made an early start came to Brown swamp took two hours to get through came about 18 miles & camped last night had a heavy rain but a fine day today On the 14th we started came on to good spring 8 miles & to bear creek 10 miles further by 11 oclock crossed by 3 oclock started on passed the Buzzard roost which is 5 miles further came on by Levi Colberts & camped about 2 miles from Colberts making in all 25 miles today last night there fell a heavy shower of Hail & rain that ever fell upon poor Soldiers in the world a clear cool day On the 15th we made an early start came on & got to the Tennessee river five miles from last nights encampment crossed the Tennessee River 2nd Regt came over first and came on about one mile & stopped until the 1 Regt could get over while we were stopped one of our men was bit by a Rattlesnake though it dont look like it would hurt him much we started and came five miles from the river making ten miles today On the 16th started early & stopped at 12 oclock for breakfast Major Carroll went on to Columbia to fix the pay rolls by the time the detachment would get there where the 2 Regt is to be discharged came 23 miles a fine day On the 17th made a bad start came on got breakfast at Young factors had a fine day made about 18

miles today On the 18th started early came to little Buffaloe crossed Big Buffaloe came on got breakfast at Grinders saw Governor Lewis' Grave the Indian line is about ten steps of Grinders door came 23 miles today & camped near old man Rhodes's there we saw the first white woman we had seen for some time they looked nice after being so long among the savages On the 19th came on & camped near Columbia & on the 20th were mustered out of service by Major Carrol received our discharge & started for home & paid for all our troubles by meeting our friends once more this was my first trip from home

* * *

Marshall Co Mississippi 3rd Nov. 1858 at the request of my children who I hope if the necessity Should ever call it forth will be as willing as I was to step forth at the Call of our country to its defence & suffer and endure all that is necessary for its safety & my daughters may they always have the same warm love for it that warmed the bosom of my dear old mother who was one to endure any privation for her country that she was called on to do and she was frequently placed in very critical positions but thank the good one she was always equal to any demand made on her patience and patriotism well do I remember her lectures to me her youngest when I first left home for the tented field my father who was a cripple in the arm from the effects of a wound from an Indian before I was born was equally willing and ever encouraged me to volunteer in the Service of my Country and after our return from our first Campaign was equally anxious for me again to mount my knapsack for another tour but in fact theirs was not an uncommon feeling for in all our country if one individual had any other feeling about the war and our duty they said but little about it as they felt they would be sadly in the minority and out of sixty fine young men that were under 21 years of age at the time we started on our Campaign to Natchez & belonging to the same militia company with myself but three were left at home & then was the time our young ladies shewed the true feelings of backwoods American women

not one of them would permit these young men to wait on them at church prefering to get their own horses as all that did not walk went to Church on horseback & in fact as long as we all remained in the same neighborhood they were treated with indifference

by the girls and if any one of them except one ever married except one I have not known it but to the commencement of my journal of my last two campaigns I will give a detailed & particular account which I will vouch for being correct except as to dates for all are as firmly fixed in my mind as the transactions of yesterday

After the massacre at Fort Mims our country was in a fever of excitement until our army was put in motion as Genl Jackson was very anxious to have an army early in the field that were well disciplined he called on the old Volunteers to assemble at Fayetteville on the 4th October (1813) to march into the Creek Nation & although we all felt that we had been discharged from our first engagement all were again anxious to go against the indians as for myself I wished to go on horseback & with Capt McCutcheon proposed to raise a company of mounted men & as I was acquainted with the old Genl was sent by the Capt to see if he would receive us if we organized & went to head quarters in my interview with him he prevailed on me to withdraw from the horse company and continue with the old Company & as several of the boys had joined the new Company with me as he said it was so important for us all to go together as we were already in a situation for active service and that our time would expire on the 10th Dec^{r} twelve months after we had been mustered into service & that he was corresponding with Mr. Armstrong the Secretary of War and hoped to be able to get pay for the time we had been at home with this assurance I went home & prevailed on the boys to quit the horse Company & go in the old Company as there was a good deal of dissatisfaction not as to going but going under the old engagement it was a very difficult undertaking to get all to agree & after our Company had taken up the line of March every officer pledged him self to march with them home the 10th Dec^{r} & with this pledge all were Satisfied I make this Statement to satisfy my children in relation to my subsequent conduct when that time arrived but I will say further I have no doubt but that the Genl fully intended to perform what he then said but from his situation he could not comply owing to no fault of his own but from the misconduct of others that he could not control he was forced to act differently (the following passage is written and struck through) & to take the ground that our time was not out at the time he had told me & some of his officers & himself were placed in antagonism

that they carried to their graves if I had one of the old discharges it would satisfy my Children that I am correct but to commence

as soon as the army were organised & we could get transportation we started for the Nation all the Country South of the Tennessee line was in a constant fever of excitement expresses daily coming to Headquarters Indians Indians were just going to break into the Settlement & murder them all Huntsville had been burned two or three times before we left Fayetteville we started from there about 10 Oclock A.M. on a clear day and marched by about 4 Oclock P.M. to where the road from Fayetteville to Huntsville crosses Flint river and were preparing to camp for the night when an express galloped into camp with a letter from Huntsville stating if we did not get there that night Huntsville would be in ashes the old Genl made the news known to the army and asked them could they go on all said go we started again and got to Huntsville about 10 oclock at night and every soul that was in Huntsville I expect was sound asleep but the dogs welcomed us for there was a plenty noise made by them to almost wake the dead but if there was an indian in fifty miles of Huntsville it was a friendly one we must have met fifty families that day some never stopped as I was told until they got to the old settled part of Tennessee on the next morning my feet were so swelled that I could not get in my shoes my heels & toes so blistered & sore that I could hardly bear to put them to the ground in fact I was as completely foundered as ever I saw a horse but had to hobble along the best way I could as I said before it was dry & dusty our company march in front but in looking back on the line the dust rose higher than the tops of the trees & from the dust & sweat I met some of my comrades & they were so covered that I did not know them until they spoke we crossed Tennessee river at ditto Landing and went up the river a mile or two & camped at what we called Coffees bluff where we remained several days waiting for Genl Coffee who had crossed his Brigade at the Muscle Shoals & gone to some town at the head of the black warrior when we first camped at the Bluff we had pretty weather but before we left there it rained & turned cold we had no tents and were badly put to it when the rain came on Col Sitler who was on the Genl staff & acting as adjutant Genl came to our camp in the rain & took me (to) one side told

me to select three men from the Regt men that I was willing to risk my life with & when I had selected them to report myself at headquarters I selected them out of our Company I took two Edmund Owen a school mate & W Mattheny and a man belonging to Capt Moores Company named Jones & reported to Littler he took me to the line of sentinels & pretty nearly scared me to death he came so near convincing me that I was being placed in a perilous position he then gave me the Countersign & watchword & started me my orders were to take the path he put me on & keep it until I came to a fork & then to sit down & if not disturbed to remain there until day light if attacked I was to defend myself until overpowered then make for camp giving the alarm

while I felt proud of the distinction so placed I would have felt much better at the fire of the Company we were placed on ground to which we were perfect strangers & from the noise about indians made by the people of Madison County we looked for an Indian behind every bush it was dark when we left the lines & we all thought we had traveled three miles but not more than one before we came to a plain fork & there we sat down & staid until daylight without speaking only in a whisper I had no disposition to sleep but let the men sleep as much as they wished this I think though in October (was) the longest night I ever passed it cleared off in the night and a keen north wind made our wet clothes fit tolerable close but nothing but the cold interrupted us we returned to camp at daylight & reported to Headquarters no interruption to our watch & were dismissed after Genl Coffee joined us we took up our line of march for the enemies country on the 2nd day reached fort Deposite on the Tennessee river where we staid several days waiting for provisions and some of our men who had not been quite ready to start when we left home & as we expected to need them when we get into the Creek Country we waited for them to come up which they accordingly done here the Genl began to feel that the contractors would disappoint him about provisions & tried to have some other arrangements made for our subsistence how far he succeeded I never knew but this much I do know that after we left Deposit we never had a regular ration for two days together until the 10th Dec^{r} at which time we expected to start home after leaving deposite nothing worth mentioning happened until we crossed Ratliffs mountain at Wills Creek in Wills Valley one of our men on

his post as Sentinel killed an Indian who was trying to see our camp he was laughed at a good deal some said he had shot a coon as a good many times we had false alarms but in the morning he took them to the place they found blood & directly found where a body had been dragged some hundred & fifty yards and covered up beside a log so that time it was found to be all right no doubt the indians reconnoiter our Camp nearly every night watching our movements the next night after Baldridge killed the Indian we had a regular alarm some seven guns fired by the sentinels on one line our orders were to fall into the rear of our fires twenty paces & form our line and remain there until regularly dismissed while in that situation one of our men stepped off and discovered one of our parsons standing in close to the other side of a tree as he (could) get and apparently paralized & it was a difficult matter to get him to speak the morning we left here Genl Coffee was sent to a hostile town with his horsemen & a few infantry among whom was Capt Williamson my Capt we marched on & camped at what we called the dry camp & there waited for Genl Coffee to join us before we went any farther while waiting for Coffee they tried a man for desertion he was found guilty & sentenced to be shot the army were drawn out to see this done his funeral was preached twelve men detailed to shoot him six ordered to the front the word given make ready take aim when one of the Genls staff handed the adjutant Genl a paper the men ordered to return to a Shoulder the adjutant looked at the paper & read it & behold it was a reprieve the first word the man said after hearing it was God bless my Genl & more than this he had been before this a disrespected quarrelsome man but this completely reformed him he made a good & worthy member of society & lived & made a fine estate but as our Genl has been censured for having men shot under his command in the Genl order reprieving this man he stated it was the last time he would interfere to stop the judgement of a Court Martial and far as he was concerned their verdict should be final the next two were Harris & Woods they both suffered the penalty of the law that same evening that the prisoner was liberated Genl Coffee returned with the Celebrated Bob Catawba & a number of other prisoners who were sent to Nashville under a proper Guard and the Army moved on into the enemies Country all looking every day for a fight Genl

Coffee & his mounted men were kept moving and on the 3rd Nov^{r} a cold frosty morning the Genl detailed 500 of Halls Brigade to march to the ten Islands to reinforce Genl Coffee who had been sent to the Talleyhatchie town some 15 miles from the ten Islands to destroy it so we could be ready if he needed a reinforcement to assist him we lay on the bank of the river till we were nearly froze our old Col Martin who commanded the detachment was an old Indian fighter determined to cross the river & go on towards the point where we expected to find Coffee as we were footmen we had to wade the river I thought it was a quarter of a mile wide cold swift & shoaly we got over & soon made ourselves warm by walking after going a short distance we met an express from Genl Coffee asking us to hurry on to meet him as he had had a pretty sharp brush had some prisoners & a good many wounded we went on but failed to meet him as he took a different rout from the one he went out so we missed him & just after dark got to the battle ground where we encamped all night but none of us slept for our old Col was not the man to be caught napping & was a strict disciplinary

The main army moved to what was afterward Fort Strother where Genl Coffee joined them the night after the battle & we lay on the battle ground there we found several Indian Children whose mothers were killed one little fellow was tugging at his Mothers breast & her Stiff & cold these things could not be helped as the warriors had their families with them consequently the women & children were liable to be killed two of these children we carried to Headquarters one of them Genl Jackson raised & he died about the time he was grown & the other was raised by Doc^{t} Shelby I saw him in 1832 in the Creek Nation after the treaty he went home for the sake of his land & was a poor drunken creature although he had a pretty good education on our march to headquarters we burned several houses & got our knapsacks full of corn but after wading Coosa a guard on the opposite bank made us empty our knapsacks to divide with our comrades who had not had an opportunity of getting any

as to rations they were not there we were like the fellows horse learning pretty well to do without them out of 25 fine ears I brought to camp I got 1½ we remained at Fort Strother until Sunday evening the 7th when an old man that had been raised in the Nation named Quarles & a friendly Chief named Chinmibby came from

a friendly Fort of Creeks at Talladega telling the Genl that the friendly Indians were beseiged by a large force of the hostiles & had obtained from them the promise that they would not interrupt them if at the end of three days if they were not relieved by Genl Jackson they would surrender under this agreement these two men somehow managed to leave the fort though surrounded by the hostiles and gave our Genl the information we made all our arrangements and were off for Talladega about 11 P.M.

we had drawn a little poor beef some of the men having killed an indian cow some where in the neighborhood of the Fort we left a few men at the Fort to take care of what stores were left the most of the Infantry waded the river though some of us rode behind the horsemen I recollect I had a little piece of meat about two ounces which when we stopped about 10 Oclock for those who had it to eat a little I took out my meat took a small mouthful of it & as I had also a little piece of bread took a little of it too then looked at it & put it back in my knapsack for some other time

some of the boys had nothing consequently just looked on we camped that night on a creek near Jim Fifes a friendly indian and got an ear of corn each for our ration & those that were not detailed for duty tried to sleep & that I believe is all the time which I was in service that I shirked from my duty I knew it was pretty near my time for guard and when the adjutant who I was well acquainted with started out to hunt his officer for the guard approached me I began to roll & tumble as if I had the cholic he passed on we had marched hard all day & had not slept the night before & was tired & finissed that one time to get a little rest & I felt so mean about it that I apologized to the adjutant after the battle was over & told him to pay me by putting me on extra duty worse than all he had no notion of putting me on guard & I had confessed the only shabby trick of that kind I done while in the Service

one more evidence a guilty conscience need no accuser we were again on the march at two oclock and a little after sun rise were in sight of the enemy when we formed the line of battle and were ordered to throw off our knapsacks I took out my little piece of meat & bread & said to the boys none of you shall have my meat if I am killed & eat it up after the battle was ended I was more hungry than I ever was in my life never will I forget my feelings when I raised my gun to fire the

first time I ever leveled it at a human being I had heard my father say his first effort he could not get his gun to his shoulder for trembling I drew mine up & I thought took pretty fair aim turned to one of the boys & said I am a heap better soldier than father but this was a mistake for there were few better than him I laughed & told him about it when I got home it pleased him very much after the Indians got out of our square & broke for the hills while we were pursuing them Col Pillow who commanded our regt Col Benton having gone into the Regular Army tried to honor my gun saying he wanted to shoot an indian just over the rise I told him I could not spare it just at that time but he found someone more liberal than me who gave up his but instead of the Col shooting the indian he severly wounded him & nothing but his starved situation saved his life as he was shot in the abdomen just below the navle there were 18 of us killed & some three hundred indians were followed about 3 miles when the drum called us back I expect when we started back to where the battle commenced as the indians had run in every direction the extremes were five miles apart after going to where we formed our line of battle near the friendly fort and encamped near it but had nothing to eat I gave an old squaw a fine new silk handkerchief for a gallon of corn this we boiled & had a fine mess of soup without any grease or salt we buried our dead all in one grave the next morning one of the Catawba's was up in a tree looking to see what we were doing was discovered by one of the soldiers made come down & given up to the friendly Chiefs taken outside of the lines & two of the Chiefs shot him after making him kneel down & ran for his hair it was young Chinnubby a Creek & Jim Brown a Cherokee Brown struck him first & got his hair which I saw him carrying as a trophy singing his song of Victory next morning we started back to strother on account of want of provisions were compelled to this course which we all regretted though we fully expected to find provisions when we got back to the fort but were sadly disappointed some waggons had got there but in place of having bacon & flour were loaded with whiskey and coffee the whiskey we did not get but what little coffee there was was divided among us starving men have but little feeling for others all came pretty near faring alike but our Genl though faring as the others had to bear the blame of our

starving & although I never saw any necessity for eating raw hides particularly when we could get beech nuts & acorns though I have no doubt some of them done it still I thought it was only to have a chance to talk about afterwards the Genl promised us if the provisions did not come by a certain day we should start to meet them and as they did not come to the day of we started leaving a few men to guard the fort & just as we crossed Coosa Mountain met a waggon load of flour one barrel had rolled out behind and bursted just as I passed I think I eat a quart of dry flour before the commissary could stop me I then drew ten quarts of flour & my two mess mates got a quart each & we three eat it all up by the next night then we got some beef but had no bread to eat with it we met the beeves at Canoe Creek & halted to go back to the fort here was the place that our Genl headed the men that were not willing to go back and drove them back they had started for home instead of for provisions but were turned back by the Genl a good many of them however deserted that night they had lost all self respect they had been so starved the rest of us returned to the fort where we staid sometimes getting something to eat but oftener nothing without anything of importance happening until the 9th night of December except the men putting aside a portion of their irregular allowance for to carry them home on the 10th as they had no doubt of getting their discharge on that day not a whisper of any other course being pursued towards them entered their minds I had been up at the quarters of old Col Martin who commanded our regiment after the battle of Talladega as Col Pillow had gone home on acct of his wound telling him what the men expected on the 11th & what the Company officers had promised them when we started from home & what I felt it my duty to do under the circumstances he told me to go back to the Company & keep still he professed a great friendship for me & although no one had any right to say all would not go off right still it seemed as if a dark cloud hung over us & no one could give a reason for the feeling I had to go back past head quarters to get home as I passed the Artillery they were parading I asked Lieut Allen what it meant he said they were ordered to parade & march to the bridge above the fort on the road home if we started to stop us I asked him what he would do if we did come he said he would shoot us as quick as he would a red stick by which

he meant the hostile indians I told him we did not intend to go until we could go right but if so happened that we did & he attempted what he said his hide would not hold black Jack brush if he only raised his match to fire his gun he never would fire it we have laughed it over frequently at old Pontotoc I left them and started to the lines & met a Serj^{t} & file of men with our orderly I asked what it meant our orderly said old Hickory had got him when I got to the line the reg^{t} had been ordered to Parade & our Company had taken up the notion they were to be deprived of their arms these they had determined to never surrender I tried & did persuade them not to load their guns our regiments were formed into line Capt Caperton on the right & here the old Genl proved (the following passage was written and then struck through) that he was not to be caught napping himself wide awake to all our camp talk walked with his Staff to the head of the Regt asked whose company is this answered Capertons then he told them the character they had abroad and at home told the troubles & difficulties he had had to contend with & how anxious he was to maintain the ground he occupied and how impossible it would be unless we would stay with him until he could get reinforcements then made this proposition for those that were willing to stay with him to come to a shoulder & those that were determined on going home to remain at an order thirteen remained at an order take them fellows under guard says the Genl promptly stop Genl they say give that order again we did not understand you the order was repeated all came to a shoulder & were sent to their tents in this way he took them by companies until he got through when he came to ours he asked whose company I told him Williamsons boys he says you are from Davidson you wont leave me alone go to your tents

although none of our boys would have thoughts of going off without going right as they said still they professed to be sorry that they did not have a chance of letting him know they felt that it was their privilege to go if they wished by the prompt action of the Genl I have no doubt a serious mutiny was prevented for if he had waited until the 11th and all had got excited in asking for their discharge there is no knowing where the thing would have stopped if their request had not been promptly agreed to half starved & naked men when they get excited have little reason or

reflection if crossed in their purpose for all wanted to go home but after promising to stay staid as far as I knew cheerfully until the reinforcements from East Tennessee joined which they did in three or four days & the Genl sent us home for the Government and us to decide about our time being out & we never heard any thing more about it only from those that had been at home who found great fault with us for leaving the army our orderly who had been put under guard before the compromise was called up by the Genl when he returned to headquarters and asked if he was willing to stay with the rest he said he never would leave him until he said the word he gave him a dram & sent him to his company we remained at home & in the summer drew our pay for the campaign

* * *

after getting home & resting & getting plenty eats we were nearly all of us ready for another Campaign when the opportunity offered & we had another chance as in the fall of 1814 Volunteers were called for to go to Florida & N.O. the indians in Florida were very troublesome being encouraged in their depredations by British officials who it appeared were urging these poor Creatures & having the complete control of the ports in Florida done our frontier great damages on the 28th of September 1814 a Brigade of mounted men rendezvoused at old Camp Blount near Fayetteville in Lincoln County Tennessee under the command of Brigadier Genl Coffee the two regiments commanded by Col R H Dyer & my old Capt Thomas Williamson Dyer commanded the first regiment the one I belonged to & Williamson the 2nd in the two Regiments there was about 2500 men Genl Jackson had been appointed a Major Genl in the Regular army was directed to accept the Services of two Regiments of Mounted Gunmen to serve twelve months unless sooner discharged under this requisition we were once more ready for the field & myself with 17 of my school mates attached ourselves to a company that Capt. T. Jones & J.A. Walker were attempting to raise with the promise that I should have the 2nd Lieutency but after the Company was organized & the election came on they deserted me who had enabled them to complete their company & elected J.W. Ecum who as a substitute had joined a day or two before the election although he was an excellent officer and a man I liked still I felt I had been badly treated

my father was so dissatisfied with my treatment he wanted to hire a substitute but I pointed to the young men who had enrolled with me & told him I could not leave them this satisfied him that I was right I for their benefit accepted the office of orderly tendered me by the Capt but during the whole campaign endeavored to thwart him in any of his efforts at reconciliation though a brave man he had very little knowledge of his duty consequently was often wrong in his commands and laying himself liable to be disobeyed & I never let an opportunity slip of letting him feel it

as I said before we rendezvoused at old Camp Blount on the 28th Sept. and after organizing took up our line of march for the Sunny South Cheerfully regardless of the where or who we had to meet if old Hickory headed us and about as pretty a sight as I ever seen was the army crossing the Tennessee river at the Muscle Shoals our Company was near the front and as the front touch the South bank the rear came in on the North bank it was said the river was three miles wide there it was a clear pretty day & it looked a pretty sight to see the string clear across the stream although it was shoaly & some places tolerable deep we got over without any accident except some of the men losing their saddle bags with their clothes one of our men named East lost his and never put on a clean shirt until after the battle at N.O. his clothes were so slick that when the rest of us were covered with body lice they would not stay on him after crossing the river we took Gaines's trace & crossed the Tom Bigbee at Cotton Gin port forded it it was deep & boggy while the front were crossing I cut my name on a Gum on the North Bank and one of my friends told me he saw it after Monroe County was settled & organized we marched on past old Col Peter Syms & Deshongs both white men with Indian families getting corn for our horses & Meat Beef for ourselves when we could & marching from 25 to 35 miles per day the weather being fine the first white settlement we came to was St. Stephens where we camped a day or two & from thence went to the Cut off from the Tom Bigbee to the Alabamer river where we lay some days & here Genl Jackson met us his headquarters being at Mobile here we met some of our Neighbours who belonged to the Militia & were stationed at Fort Montgomery one half of Coffee's Brigade were here dismounted left their horses in the Cut off marched for Pensacola where we arrived

on the 6 Nov^{r} 1814 the first cannon ball I ever saw flying was here when we arrived near the town the Genl sent a flag but it was fired on & the ball whistled over our heads cutting off the pine limbs we then expected to commence our selves but were ordered out of the reach of the guns and camped for the night on the next day we marched into Pensacola in three Columns Coffees dismounted regiment & the friendly indians in the centre the mounted men with Hinds dragoons on the right & nearest the fort the regulars next the bay our Column marched up the Street on which the Governors house stood we received two rounds from a Six pounder without any injury & then a white flag was hoisted but this had no effect on the fort for after the Governor had surrendered several shots were fired from it one of them I told the boys I would stop as it came rolling along but was jerked back by a man that had more sense and experience than myself just after it passed us rolling along on the ground it met some obstruccion and flew to the height of six feet & never struck the ground again as long as I could see it after while we got possession of the fort & just before night marched back to our old camp the regulars remaining in possession of the Town & fort on the next day we were busy killing beef & some of the mounted men went to the Barancas a fort further down the bay to take possession & hem in the British and force their Vessels to run the gauntlet but both the forts was blown up to prevent it on the next day we started back to the cut off and it was current in Camp that an old tory that was in Pensacola & was taken and protected by Genl Jackson from the men belonging to Hines dragoons whose parents he had robbed in the revolutionary war & fled to Pensacola with the plunder to keep them from Lynching him in fact he had him carefully guarded & it was believed Genl Jackson got from him the news that the British were on their way to N.O. which caused his hasty return & subsequent movements towards the Mississippi we were 23 days getting from the cut off where we had left our horses to the near the mouth of Thompsons Creek and it rained 19 out of the 23 days our clothes & baggage wet nearly all the time we had no tents except for the sick & traveled from 20 to 35 miles per day killing beeves at night for our rations the Country was a wilderness with a few cow raisers & some poor indians & our days march was regulated by the chores of getting beeves

to feed the men which was one cause of the difference in our days marches then was a time for us poor orderlies for we hardly got 3 hours sleep in the 24 for after the beeves were kilt they had to be divided to the companies & then to the messes & we hardly ever got through till after midnight & up at four to get ready for the next days march when we came to a stream we managed to get our baggage & Selves carried over in Canoes or boats & had to swim our horses & they were pretty near used up it was generally a piney country and the ground was so rotten we would frequently mire on the highest hills I think it was about the middle of Dec^{r} when we reached the Mississippi at the mouth of Thompsons Creek & were busy building shelters to winter when an express came from Genl Jackson to Genl Coffee to come to New Orleans just as fast as his horses could bring him in about an hour we were mounted and on the road & each man was ordered to take care of himself & get there as soon as he could by traveling day and night it was Saturday 17 Dec^{r} my horse being foundered I made but little head way the first day staid all night with an old scotch Lady about 20 miles above Baton Rouge who was very kind to me & helped me to work with my horse so that the next morning he got on tolerable well she directed me a near way through the devils swamp as it was called that saved me some four miles travel & as I had but little money she charged me nothing & made me promise to come by & see her if I ever got back home & I got permission on our return to come by the old ladys & stay with her again from some cause I was a great favorite with her she said on my return she had made frequent enquiries about me during the siege & really appeared to take so much interest in me that I felt ashamed particularly as the boys laughed at me about it there were a good many of them there she appeared to think as I was nothing but a Serjeant when I passed going down & had told her so & as I came back & the boys called me Lieut that it was only modesty as I went down that prevented me from claiming that distinction & could not believe anything else She was then about seventy years old & was from the same County in Scotland that Major Mitchell who was taken prisoner on the night of the 23 was knew him and his family well he staid all night at her house as they brought him up to Natchez I got but little sleep that night when I left she made me promise if ever I came near her I would come & see her I believe she truly had a

warm friendship for me she must have gone to her long home long since but as long as I live I will not forget old Madame Fridge & her kindness to the rough boy with the sick horse in Baton Rouge I met Sam[l] N. & John D. Marlin his brother who now lives in H.S. (Holly Springs, Miss.) we there made our acquaintance and as they had been left behind too we agreed to go on together & stuck together until we reached N.O. Wednesday morning just after daylight having traveled pretty much day & night except to rest an hour or two at a time to take a hasty nap & feed our horses & some times get a mouthful to eat the fact is our Brigade was scattered along the Coast some on foot some driving their horses others on horse back poking along all trying to get to headquarters the planters were very kind to us when we stopped & if we would or could have taken time for them to have done it would have fed us & our horses sumptuously but every man appeared to think the safety of the city depended on his getting there after we got to Camp Coffee just above the city we lay there sunning ourselves & drying our clothes until about two oclock P.M. Friday 23 Dec[r] when an order came that the British had landed & were marching on the City in great force & we must hurry down to protect it we were pretty soon in the saddle never was such a hurry before by any of us in less than an hour after the express came we had drawn our ammunition and were on the road we had come a long way for a brush & were now about to be gratified & were in the City in less than two hours after the order issued we were the first troops that went through the City & such a sight I hope to never see again women children & old men moving up town the women crying & screaming for fear of the British the sides of the Streets in the upper part of the city was lined with Negroes with large waiters filled with good liquors which we were urged to drink free of charge we would in galloping past take a bottle knock off the upper part of the neck instead of trying to uncork drink and pass it on

in this way we passed through & just after dark left the levee down which we had bee been traveling took out through an old field just as we left the road one of our men whose horse stumbled got his gun broke the Capt wanted him to go back but he would not do it his name was Isaac Burleson a Cousin of Ed Burleson of Texas

the boys laughed at him and asked him what he was going to do with a broken gun

he told them some of them would be killed & he would take their Gun & the first one of the British that was killed near him he laid down his rifle a fine one & hauled off the accoutrements of the dead Briton saying a fair exchange is no robbery & made the swap with the dead man the last time I saw him after he got home he still had the Gager & I hope if he is dead his family will keep it for his sake for he certainly was brave & cool a man in danger as I ever saw when our Brigade had left the road & gone some distance we were halted until the regulars & N.O. troops would bring on the engagement while we were waiting we could see the British camp fires burning brightly they little thought from the joley manner in which they were preparing supper old Hickory was so close to them him & Staff went down our line to reconnoiter I suppose and as they came back the old Genl had something to say to each company as he passed which made their blood flow a little faster just at the time he passed our Company the old Carolina moved down the river opposite their Guard & was hailed thus Boat a hoy three times the next word who are you at that the old boat cut loose with a broadside some of the balls passed pretty near us the camp fires of the British died out so suddenly it appeared as if the ground had sunk there & the infantry including city troops & regulars commenced the engagement before we were ordered to move on we could see the blaze from their guns cross each other it appeared at an angle of about 20 degrees both shots too high the British threw some rockets one of our Company old W^{m} Scott see he said they are throwing red hot balls we were ordered to move on for perhaps a quarter of a mile were ordered to dismount tie our horses two & two together & let them rip the rear of the Brigade said they came pretty near being run over as soon as we had got into the rear of the British where it was intended for us to act we were ordered to form the line & were wheeled in by Companies & just as our Company was brought into line & Col Lauderdale our Lieut Col was turning to bring another company into line he was struck by a ball I think in the forehead & killed we thus lost the commander of our Battallion a rough man a rough man but one of the best field officers in the Brigade and from his rough manners an officer his battalion did not know how to appreciate until we had lost him he had never slept from the Regt from the time we left home until

he was killed & said when we left home he intended to stick to us if he lived until we got home he truly was the Soldiers friend always ready to hear his complaints and if just to see him righted there being no other field officer near when he fell we directly got into confusion in jumping fences & ditches and being entirely unacquainted with the ground although the moon which was near the full at first shined pretty bright our battallion got separated from the balance of the Brigade & while in that situation the reinforcements of the British came on & over the same/ground we had just marched over & commenced firing on us Major Kavanaugh who was one of our field officers & after Lauderdale was killed came & took command of us came along past where we were drawn up facing as we thought our own men but in reality the British and asked if some one would go up & tell our Col Dyer that it was his own men he was shooting I stepped out & said if no one else would go I would when I said this Capt J^no^ Donelson who commanded the Rangers said he would go with me & a man belonging to Capt Evans Company from Davidson named Floyd said he would go too he since died in this county near Tallaloosa after we had got one hundred yards from our line they still firing as they approached us Donelson said he would go no further & Floyd stopped with him I told them I disliked to start on an errand & not go through with it I would go on Donelson said I might do as I pleased he would wait for me I pushed on & when I got in about 20 yards of them a field officer I took for our C Col rode up to the line & said there they are give it to them & galloped off to another part of the line I halloed after him & was so sure that it was our Col asked him if he intended killing all his own men a man nearest to me who was on foot said it was a mistake and asked me what Regiment I belonged to I told him first Regt of Coffees Brigade & first battalion & asked him if that was not the 2nd Battallion he said yes by this time I had got close enough to not be so sure it was our folks & stopped the man kept talking I discovered that they had white straps for their bayonets & cartridge boxes just as I made this discovery he ordered me seeing he could not get much closer to me till he was found out to ground my arms for a damned Yankee you may think I was easily fooled as you may have the impression that all the British Soldiers wear red coats which if it had been the case

I could have found them out sooner for although it was night the moon was shining & if their coats had been red I would have detected them before I got so close & known it was not our folks but the uniform of these troops was grey believing too all the enemy were between us & the river it was hard for me to believe we had an enemy in our rear & older men than me were fooled if I was deceived as to who they were he was deceived as to my grounding my arms for although I was tolerable good at a foot race I expect I never made better time that I did that night when they found I did not surrender they commenced firing at me which did not make me run slower from the whistling of the balls I thought the whole British army were shooting at me I hollowed as loud as I could that it was the British and was careful to run down the fence on which the left of our line rested our company at the other end of the line this threw me a smart distance from our company I walked along the rear of the Battallion & told them as I passed it was the British when I got to where our Company was they had not heard me hollow the British and they were mixed up our folks trying to make them believe they were friends & the British saying if you are friends why don't you ground your arms I could easily understand it how our folks were deceived but never understood how the British could be deceived until I read the debates on the $1000 fine in Congress I then understood they thought we were the disaffected citizens mentioned in the debates I soon convinced our folks it was the British they soon all that were in a situation to do it jerked up their arms which in their zeal to satisfy the British of their being friends had grounded them and commenced using them our Cornet & four privates were here taken prisoner our Capt lost his sword our first Lieut shot through the Shoulder after discharging our guns we retreated as they were a great deal too many for us & lay down in a ditch Old W^{m} Scott who saw the hot balls at the commencement of the fight belonged & was an elder in the <u>Seceder</u> Church refused to get into the ditch I called him to come into the ditch he refused & said the same God would protect him there that would in the ditch & he was just as safe as if he was in the ditch he had hardly got the word out of his mouth until his arm(was)broken in two or three places he was so badly wounded that he was one of the six who got a suit of clothes

from an old lady who made six suits of clothes and wanted Genl Coffee to give to six of his bravest men the Genl told her he could not do that as he did not know how to decide that but if she would be satisfied he would give it to six of his worst wounded to this she agreed and old W^m Scott & Major David Hubbard got two of the suits after we left the ditch we soon fell in with a portion of the 2nd Regt commanded by Col Williamson & while him and our officers were talking Major Mitchell of the British army came along looking for his Regt it thus appeared the British army with all their discipline were as much confused as we were when he came near our line he asked one of Donelsons men if he could tell him anything of the 95 I presume his regiment the young man ordered him to surrender which he did unbuckled his sword & threw it down and Capt Donelson took it into possession the firing by this time being pretty well over only in little Spurts on different portions of the field Capt Donelson belted Mitchels sword round him & let our Capt have his after some little time our Lieut who was wounded in the shoulder wished for a horse to go to the Hospital I started out to get one for him in wandering about in the Sugar Cane I frequently passed some portions of our men huddled up together trying to get warm as I passed Donelsons Company he said to one of his Lieut^s I wonder what became of the poor fellow that went up to tell the British who we were the other with an oath said his hide would not hold black Jack brush & they could hardly believe me when I told them I was not hurt in fact all that knew anything of my going up & had not seen me afterwards were certain I was killed but through mercy I was not hurt

I met old Col Williamson one of our old neighbors & with whom I had served two Campaigns who was so certain I was killed he could hardly believe it was me when I spoke to him & caught him by the hand he on horseback & me afoot hunting a horse for the Lieut By God (?) old fellow I am glad to see you alive I heard you were killed we got along the balance of the night as we could some spent their time looking for their horses mine was so noted that if he was not gone clear off some body/would bring him up sure enough about day light some one that had been hunting his brought mine to me he had lost nothing but my bridle we tried about that time to make a little fire out of the picketts but it did not warm us much my patriotism

at about sun up was at a pretty low ebb I felt a good deal like running if an enemy appeared & the boys all said they felt pretty much as I did . the Commissary came up to where we were lying & rolled out some barrels of whiskey & knocked out the head of one I stepped up filled a half pint cup nearly full and drank it off this warmed me all over and made me ready for anything that might come the Regulars & militia soon commenced that celebrated breastwork about which so much has been said about it being nearly all cotton when in fact I dont believe there was 100 bales on the whole line it is true there was a portion of the first work mixed with cotton but the line was over half a mile long some 8 feet high & from 12 to 15 feet wide so it would have taken a great many bales to have even made half of it the greater portion of it was dirt & pickets all the 24th we lay about 150 yards in the rear of the breast work in the old field on Christmas morning our Regt was ordered to the Bayou St John to guard as we understood an engineer who was to select a place for some defences to be erected there we lay near the lake all night it was very cold the moon was at the full and in eclipse we had no wood but Pickets which make a white blaze & but little heat we nearly froze on one side while the other was burning & sparks flew out & burned a hole in the back of my coat about the size of a bullet hole the boys laughed at me and said I had got shot in the back on the 26th we went back to headquarters and just as we passed through N.O. we saw a smoke down the river below the British encampment it was the old Carolina that had got below the British lines & could not be got back consequently she was blown up we again took our position in the rear of the breastwork where we remained all the next day The 2nd Regt of Coffees Brigade occupying the ground on the left of the line of Breastworks with us alternate days until the first of Janry while a portion of the British attempted to turn our left when our Regt was ordered to the extreme left to prevent them from succeeding if they attempted it again where we remained until the close of the Seige our Lieut Baskeville was appointed Major in the Regt a vacancy occurring in consequence of the death of Col Lauderdale & the promotion of Maj^{r} Moulton in Lauderdales place Baskerville was made 2n Maj^{r} which left a vacancy in our Company & I was appointed to succeed him & the first night afterwards was ordered on Pickett

guard during the night some negroes were endeavoring to escape to the British someone of the guard fired on them one of them in running ran up to one of our men who captured him his excuse was that he was lost the others got off I thought to the British the one we caught I sent to headquarters in the morning this night was opened for the first time our 13½ inch morter on them we could hear them talking plainly about it the first fire the Shell bursted in the air the next one I heard them hollow to each other take care & it fell right among them we kept them up nearly all the time on the last night of Dec^{r} there was 150 men detailed from the Tennessee troops to annoy them or take their port guard and put under the command of Col Kemper we were to go down the little ditches that were cut to run into the large ditch that their sentinels were placed on the ditches were about 30 feet apart & about two feet wide & two deep two men went in each ditch just before me and my mate got to the main ditch (as we went two to the ditch) a sentinel that was placed on the main ditch thought he could hear something in the Sugar cane hailed & fired the cane was a great way above our heads we were in no danger but one of Hines dragoons six hundred yards off said he came very near being hit when the sentinel fired all the rest of the line done the same thing the alarm became General & we kept them confused nearly all night the next morning they moved a battery up within Six hundred yards of our line & commenced the new year by a heavy discharge of cannonading & rockets we were just eating our breakfast still in the rear of the breastworks in the ditch Genl Jackson & Coffee were standing near the head of our Company the rockets came pretty thick then the firing of small arms commenced in the swamp on our left where our 2nd Regt was stationed Genl Jackson ordered Coffee to take our Regt to their assistance Coffee mounted our quartermasters horse which was tied near our Company we followed him across the old field the rockets it appeared to me were flying pretty thick I thought we were a long time getting across the old field to the shelter of the trees in the edge of the swamp but by the time we reached the left of the 2nd Regt the firing had ceased & the British had retreated we then commenced preparations for taking our permanent positions in the swamp by cutting down the trees & making a breastwork of logs & clearing the

undergrowth away in front of our line for about forty yards making fires & fixing up our tents on platforms of pickets to sleep on when we first got to our position on the left of the 2nd Regt we were ordered to lay down on the edge of the ditch we threw ourselves down & to shew how completely we were worn down & careless as to danger I had not been in that position ten minutes after all was still until I was sound asleep and we all slept from that time until the British left with our clothes all on our muskets in our arms when we could get to sleep at all the evening we left Camp Coffee to come down to the first battle I put on a pair of new shoes good home made ones & never took them off untill I kicked them off after we left the lines to return to our encampment above N.O. after all was over they were completely rotten by moving up so near our lines they annoyed us a good deal and it was determined to send out some men to try & take their Guns fifty men from Coffees and 100 from Carrolls division the young subalterns all wanted to go & had to draw for it I drew a prise and consequently was one that went Capt White of the 2nd Regt commanded the men from our Brigade we marched out on the levvee & were ordered to advance on the battery the british were protected by some houses at their battery just as we were making ready a heavy shower of rain came up & we were ordered into our lines when the rain was over we were marched out again after receiving one fire from their battery we were again ordered into our lines none of us was hurt but I thought the grape fell around us pretty thick the holes in the ends of their guns looked very large just as we got in our lines we discovered the house near where they had erected their battery & which sheltered them some little from our sight was on fire they left their battery that night & let their cannon remain where they had placed them when they moved up there nothing of any importance occurred until the morning of the 8th Jan^{y} except the strengthening of our lines on that morning a dull & cloudy one just before day light I was lying awake & thought I could hear a rumbling sound presently the artillery opened & it was pretty near a constant roar until they had advanced and retreated the third time & although our Brigade with the exception of two companies on our right were not engaged & they in the edge of the old field the others were too far in the woods to be in any danger but I know I

suffered a great deal more than if I had been in the hottest part the British had a brass cannon that was with the column nearest the swamp that made as sharp a crack as a rifle we could tell by this when they advanced or retreated just before the firing ceased it was reported to head quarters the troops on the opposite bank had retreated before the British this went like a flash of lightning along the line & we were all expecting a cannonade from that side every minute to rake our lines I happened to be by the side of a large sweet gum stump I laughingly told the boys I had located on the side of that stump farthest from the river & if the worst came they must not interfere with my location but just at this time it was reported to Genl Coffee our Pickett Guard had retreated he was standing near our Company with his staff he turned to our adjutant told him to detail twenty men & send them with me to take the place of the guard that had left I disliked the berth very much as I did not know the reason they had for retreating but marched off with the men and remained there until nearly night consequently saw but little of the havoc we had made in the British lines in fact all I saw of it was the smoke from our guns during the engagement on the next morning Genl Coffee ordered me to go with one of Capt Beenes spies through the Swamp opposite the British camp & see what discoveries I could make as to what they were doing we started off down the edge of the Swamp just out of sight of the field and kept on until we got as we thought far enough to get a good view of them & I endeavoured by climbing to get a sight of what they were at it was raining and every thing was wet & no tree small enough for me to climb but some cypress & Gums that had no limbs for 40 feet after trying until I had taken the skin off my legs & arms I gave it up & we started back to report we were going along talking very cagy trying to make out something to say for ourselves came to a ditch that we thought led to our camp went up it until we got to the edge of the field could hear talking the palmettoes was very thick & we stepped through them into the open space we were right in on the midst of the British lines and in less than 30 steps of a crowd of them fortunately they did not discover us we stepped back behind the palmettoes & were hid from them but were too much flurried to take many notes of what they were doing but made the best of our way to our own folks

when we got there I reported to Col Elliott what we had seen but failed to report to Genl Coffee who came to our Company & told me I ought to have reported to him he asked me a good many questions as to what I thought they were doing I told him the only fair sight I got of them I was a little confused but I believed they were burying their dead could see nothing that looked like they were fixing to leave he laughed & told me Beene said he just took me up there to see what metal I was made of and that he knew where he was going when he went up there I told the Genl it was true I was lost and scared but Beene was as bad lost & scared as I was he said he thought this very probable but little occurred after this that I had any particular concern with until the British left on the morning after they left in the night we followed them several miles but did not over take them on looking at their encampment the ground was pretty well and thoroughly plowed with the cannon balls the next day after hearing an order from our Genl congratulating us on our conduct during the Seige we returned to our old encampment above N.O. on this march as our horses were up there before & we had to go afoot I kicked off my shoes as I mentioned in another place & walked up to camp in my stocking feet the next day I got a pair of shoes that lasted me home after we had been some time at Camp Coffee corn began to get scarce & Genl Coffee ordered me with 20 men to take charge of a barge & go up the river to get corn for our horses I still have the order & insert it here below

Camp above Orleans 28 Jan^{y} 1815

> Lieut Edmondson of Capt Jone's Company will take command of the Barge & men that are detailed to work her and proceed with the barge up the river Mississippi until Lieut Bedford who will go by land purchases a load of corn which you will bring to camp without delay If you see my corn boats on the river coming down put one of your men on board with orders that he push her night & day until he arrives here and report her to the quarter master of Brigade Major Rose great reliance is placed in your prompt execution of this order
>
> I am with due regards
> John Coffee
> Brig^{r} Genl

Lieut Bedford bought the corn & I with the men loaded the boat with it the corn we purchased of the negroes at the different plantations on the coast with the approbation of their owners the custom with the planters these days on the Coast was to allow each negro a flour barrel of corn in the ears per month for head the negroes

never worked for their masters before sun rise nor after sun down before and after that time they had rice patches and worked in them in this way they made rice enough for bread & sold the corn to any one that would buy it we were gone from Headquarters eight days here I had the first spell during that campaign which run into the jaundice & did not recover my health again for a year however we got the corn & got with it to Head quarters where it was much needed about this time the Quinsey broke out killed some and a good many suffered very much one of our men had his throat cut & breathed through a silver tube for several hours but finally recovered when we heard officially that peace was made there was an exchange of prisoners when ours came to us they brought company with them that was not very agreeable & consequently annoyed us a good deal I mean body lice the last one I saw was in a mile of home after I had thrown away all my clothes but a clean suit which I put on at Columbia I found one in my sock just before I got home where he had sheltered I cant tell but my sock had to go too & I saw no more of them after we heard the news of peace we commenced preparing to return home I was in town getting our horses shod for the homeward march they were preparing for a celebration on acct of peace when we were leaving in the evening they commenced firing the cannon the horse I had swapped my fine roan for had been taken prisoner & used by the British for a pack horse he was so much afraid of the firing that I could hardly hold him in fact though poor he was pretty near unmanageable & with difficulty I got safe to camp & when Genl Jackson got to Nashville I knew him so well that I took my fathers horse telling him I was afraid mine would not stand fire after I left and went out with the crowd though it was raining the old man could not stand it took my horse and came on when we got in about a mile of town I found him standing on the side of the road holding the horse & him in such a flurry that he could hardly be managed though my father had him by the bridle but he would not let me have him but made me keep with the crowd & he staid behind & let the crowd pass though an ugly horse one of the best I ever owned after several dissappointments as to starting hom we got under way at last and as proud of it as boys get to be we had had a laborious & hard campaign & been exposed greatly but those of

us who were well felt that our trials though great were over our duty we had done faithfully but were rejoiced that we were starting for home we were much longer getting to Thompsons Creek than we were going down came through Baton Rouge Woodville Waiting at the latter place we met our sick who had been brought by water thus far when we got to Brashires where the Lake road from N.O. & the road from Natchez intersect we met Carrols division one of my school mates Samuel W Hope who belonged to it was sick he sent for me & told me they were arranging to leave the sick of their division & asked me to try and get him off with us he said if he was left he would die he knew I saw his Capt who was willing to let us take him if the Genl would agree & after a good deal of trouble got him off put him on my horse & brought him home there were now seven in my mess & we had but five horses so two of us walked all the time we were all school mates & did not mind this much as we liked our school mate & he was very sick his brother was in our mess & attended to him during the day he had a sore ancle & was not able to walk any my horse pleased him so much he would ride him all the time none of us ever regretted the trouble we had with him in getting him home at least I never did for he was a true friend & never afterwards let any opportunity slip of showing it he has long since gone to his long home in fact in all that seven if there is but three of us now alive I don't know it myself John Fitzhugh still in old Davidson & Ebenezer Frazior in Texas the rest have paid the debt we all owe never shall I forget getting home this time all had scattered towards their homes none but me and Hope together he riding my horse I walking by his side we had been gone over seven months had travelled between two & three thousand miles the most of the distance through a wilderness country rain or shine we went hot or cold without tents to shelter us we went but our sufferings were not greater than that of our friends at home on our account the mail came from N.O. twice a month & afterwards my father told me mail days from N.O. the crowd round the Post office was very great

if any one got a letter from N.O. all had to hear it read I wrote him about my scrape on the night of the 23rd Dec^{r} it had to be read out it caused some feeling with those that knew me & my old Father I was told cried like a child though

that was a part that he never told me at that time in our part of the Country there was no division with all it was our Country right or wrong

I got home just after breakfast the big road from Huntsville to Nashville ran about two hundred yards east of the house & a lane turned up to the front of the house Hope rode my horse I walked across the lot a near cut they were not expecting us till night but father in his anxiety to see me had started out the road we were to come expecting to be able to see or hear something met Hope & turned back but before they got in sight I had got on the top of the yard fence several of the family were walking about in the yard none of them saw me un il I fired off my pistol & then such a hurrah as we had none but them that have gone through just such a scrape as we had can tell how we all felt for myself I was fully paid for all my trials my dear old Mother hung on my neck I was her youngest my father & sisters too could not help exalting over my safe return I always thought until I went into the army my father had a poor opinion of my ever doing much but staying around my mother as her spoiled pet which I was but after my first Campaign he never complained of me in that way this closes my account of my services in the war of 1812 & if the necessity ever exists may my sons as cheerfully follow in my footsteps that far at least but there are a great many errors I have committed in my voyage through life may they looking at my course avoid